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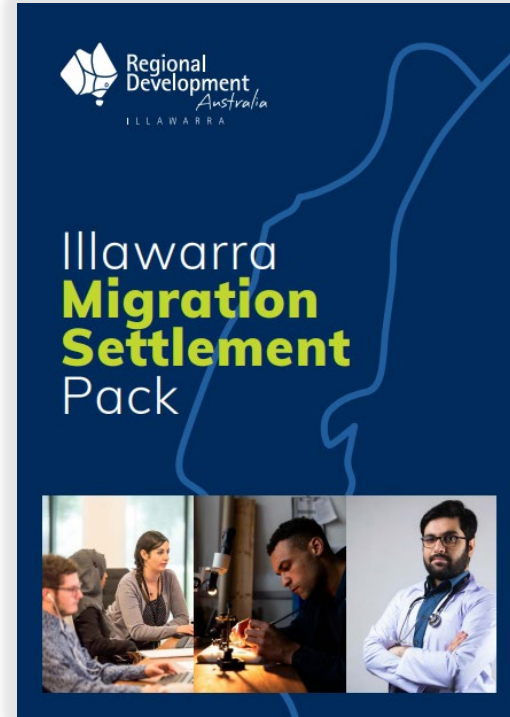
**Regional
Development**
Australia

ILLAWARRA

Quarterly Report to the Region April to June 2023



Top 5 Achievements



1. Illawarra Migration Settlement Pack launched at Welcome to Region event
2. Minister McBain visits Illawarra to provide budget update
3. RDA analysis reveals rail commuters voted with opal cards to ditch long commute
4. RDA joins Venues NSW Illawarra Sports & Entertainment Reference Group
5. Leadership Illawarra Program site visits span regional industry and NFPs

Illawarra Migration Settlement Pack launched at Welcome to Region event



RDA Illawarra hosted a ‘Welcome to the Region’ online information session where **more than 200 skilled migrants** joined us to discover more about settling into the Illawarra region.

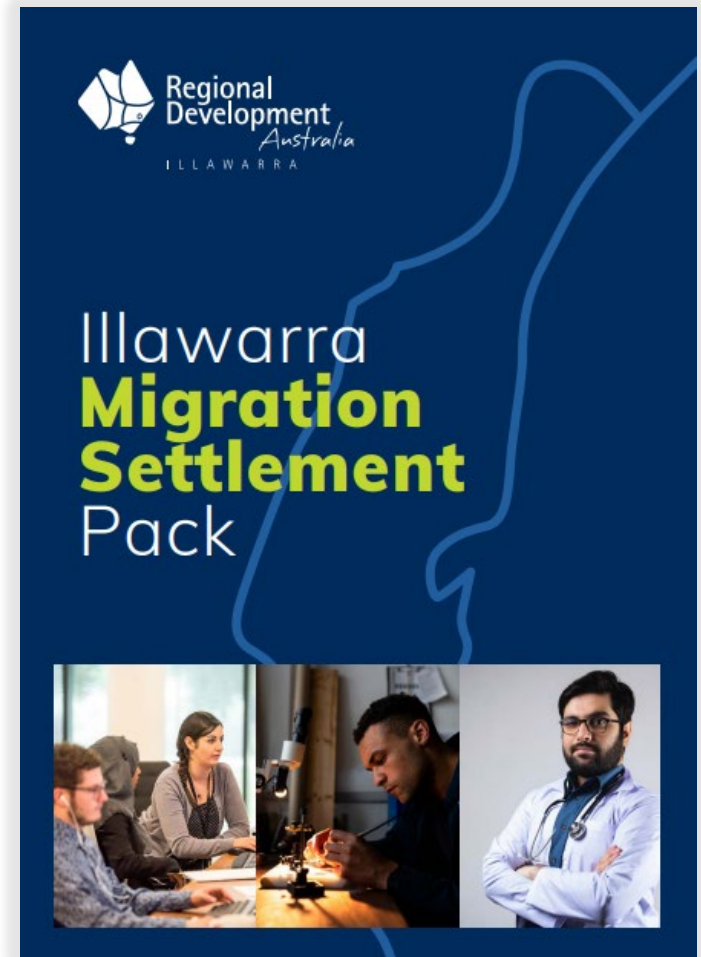
The session covered:

- What makes the Illawarra unique?
- What migrants can expect in the first 60 days
- Tips for seeking employment and housing
- Support services available to support migrant workers and their families settle into the region

A Migrant Settlement Pack was also produced - packed with information to support migrants and their families to settle into the community.

Access the Illawarra Migration Settlement Pack [here](#)

Migration enquiries: migration@rdailawarra.com.au



Minister McBain visits region to provide budget update



The Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories visited Wollongong on 19 May to discuss the Australian Government's Regional Investment Framework and budget impacts for the Illawarra at an event hosted by Alison Byrnes MP, Member for Cunningham.

Read RDA Illawarra's pre-budget submission [here](#)



Read RDA Illawarra's analysis of what's in the 2023-24 Budget for the Illawarra [here](#)

L to R: Alison Byrnes MP, Debra Murphy, The Hon Kristy McBain MP, RDA Illawarra board member Paul Wellings CBE



RDA analysis reveals rail commuters voted with opal cards to ditch long commute



RDA Illawarra revealed a marked change in the habits of Illawarra workers, who have voted with their opal cards to ditch the long commute.

Transport for NSW data shows **rail** travel on the South Coast Line post COVID has **dropped by 50 percent** when compared to the pre-COVID average.



In 2019, the monthly average for rail commuting on the Bomaderry to Sydney South Coast Line was more than 800,000 trips as workers made the daily journey to the office. While figures show an increase in rail journeys throughout 2022 and early 2023, the post-COVID average sits just above 400,000 monthly trips, 16 months after restrictions were lifted, reflecting a marked change in the habits of Illawarra workers.

Read RDA Illawarra's analysis [here](#)

Aggregated data for traffic on the Picton and Heathcote roads shows these travel routes have been impacted less, with a **28 percent drop** in post-COVID average trips.

RDA joins Venues NSW - Illawarra Sports & Entertainment Reference Group

RDA Illawarra has long supported the development of the [Illawarra Sports & Entertainment Precinct \(ISEP\)](#), along with the region's Peak Bodies.

We are pleased to advise that in 2023 **RDA Illawarra joined the Venues NSW Reference Group for the Illawarra Sports and Entertainment Centre**. This work will enable the development of a detailed business case and Master Plan for the ISEP, with \$4.5 million funding over two years from the NSW Government.

We are working with Venues NSW to deliver a business case which will enable the development of a thriving regional visitor economy and jobs growth on this unique and strategic site.



Leadership Illawarra Program site visits span regional industry and NFPs

Easy Agile, BlueScope and Greenacres opened their doors to participants of the Leadership Illawarra Program, to hear firsthand from the leaders of a start up, not-for-profit and large business.

Each host showcased their organisation and held a leadership conversation to enable participants to learn about different leadership styles and approaches.



Easy Agile Site Visit with CEOs Dave Elkan and Nicholas Muldoon



BlueScope Site Visit with Tania Archibald, Chief Executive Australian Steel Products



Greenacres Site Visit with CEO Chris Christodoulou and Chief Commercial Officer Audra Tuckwood

RDA Illawarra, in partnership with



The Illawarra Connection



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA



Eddy De Gabriele
(Chair) Business Owner



Joanna Kubota
(Deputy Chair) Executive Director - The
Parks, Sydney's Parkland Councils



Mark Roberts
Senior Manager Strategic Projects –
UOW



Carey McIntyre
City Futures Directorate - Shoalhaven
City Council



Craig Osborne OAM
Managing Partner – RMB Lawyers



Paul Wellings CBE
Emeritus Professor - UOW



Daniel Rowan
Business Owner



Milco Stojanoski
Manager Slabmaking, Australian Steel
Products – BlueScope



Debra Murphy
CEO – RDA Illawarra

RDA Illawarra Board & CEO

More information on the RDA Illawarra Board members can be found [here](#).

If you have any feedback or insights, please contact us here:

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